

Town of Uxbridge
Department of Public Works
WINTER
“Snow & Ice” Program

The Town of Uxbridge, Department of Public Works (DPW) has prepared this “Snow & Ice Program” brochure for the residents of Uxbridge. The main objective is to enhance community awareness concerning winter operations. Our mission is to efficiently return over 100 miles of roads to “normal conditions” after each winter event. Your support and patience is necessary and greatly appreciated.

The DPW “Snow & Ice Program” involves a four (4) part process:

- 1. When the Snowfall Starts....and sometimes earlier....***
- 2. The Snowfall Continues.....***
- 3. After the Storm.....***
- 4. How the Community Can Help.....***

When the Snowfall Starts...and sometimes earlier....

Prior to snow and ice accumulating on the roadways, liquid chlorides or salt may be applied to prevent ice pack from building on the surface. This is commonly called anti-icing. The “brine” stays in the crevices and works before and after plowing operations are completed. When the snowfall starts, the DPW immediately begins to sand and salt the roads to prevent the snow from being compacted and frozen on the road surface. Top priority is given to the Town’s main streets and bus routes. Snowplowing operations typically begin when snow accumulates two (2) inches, or when forecasts indicate that it will. Over 20 Town and private contractor plows are deployed and assigned to pre-determined routes.

The Snowfall Continues.....

The drivers plow their assigned routes to “open-up” each route in a pre-determined sequence with major roads given priority. If the intensity of the storm warrants, the plows remain in the same pattern until the storm subsides. At the end of the storm, the trucks begin to “widen-out” all roads, then clearing the intersections. It is important to note that residents may want to wait until the road has been plowed and “widened-out” before shoveling the entrance to driveways.

DPW’s policy is to plow the full width of the streets, “curb-to-curb”, during each storm. Again, our initial responsibility is to keep the main lines open and safe for travel. These roads are the key to maintaining a steady flow of traffic especially for emergency routes.

The DPW Snow & Ice staff is “well-trained” and “dedicated” to work “around-the-clock”, keeping the roads open and passable. Please, do not be misled by plow trucks riding with their plows up, they may be going in for fuel, repairs, headed to another assigned route, skipping over State jurisdiction roads or are not employed by the Town.

Always an area of concern is mailboxes. To reduce the possibility of damaging a mailbox, our plow truck operators are trained to avoid them. However, experience has shown that with reduced visibility during a snowstorm, combined with the height of the snow banks, it is not always possible for a driver to see a mailbox in time to avoid a collision with the “plow” or the heavy snow that is thrown by the moving plow. Any installation within the road right-of-way (including a mailbox) is placed there at the owner’s risk. Therefore, property owners are encouraged to put mailboxes at the maximum allowable distance from the roadway pavement. It is strongly recommended that mailboxes and posts be inspected to insure they are properly secured and the posts are not rotten.

After the Storm.....

After the snowstorm has ended, our crews continue to monitor all roads for icy spots, drifting snow, etc. At this time, a combination of sand, salt and calcium chloride is usually applied to all road surfaces to melt the remaining snow and ice.

How the Community Can Help.....

The Community can enhance the snowplowing operation by following these suggestions:

- a) Make certain that your vehicle is ready for winter driving (tires, wiper blades, etc).
- b) Observe and adhere to winter parking bans.
- c) Park vehicles off the road or in your yard during a snowstorm.
- d) Reduce speed and drive cautiously.
- e) Do not drive in winter snowstorms unless absolutely necessary.
- f) **Do not throw, plow or blow snow onto the road.** This is a Town Bylaw. (see below)
- g) Plows are designed to throw snow up to 30 feet. Sidewalk traffic is not advised during a snow event.
- h) Before your final driveway cleanup, check the street. If your street is not clean “curb to curb”, a plow truck should return to plow again. Please understand that the Town cannot shovel or plow your driveway.
- i) **Finally, please be patient.** Snowplowing is an arduous and time-consuming job covering over 100 miles of Town roads. Some residents will have their roads plowed “first” and some must be “last”. The workers will continue until the job is done.

Winter Parking Ban

The Town of Uxbridge enforces an overnight parking ban which is in effect from December 1st to April 1st. This ban requires that all roadways be kept clear of any motor vehicles from 12 midnight to 6 a.m. regardless of the weather conditions. Residents are asked to comply with this regulation. Failure to comply will result in the owner receiving a ticket from the Uxbridge Police Department and/or removal of the vehicle from the roadway during a snow emergency at the owner’s expense. If a vehicle is impaired and cannot be removed until morning, the owner is required to alert the Uxbridge Police Department for assistance.

Sidewalks

Usually toward the end of the storm, sidewalks in the 1 mile radius of the lower schools and 1 .5 mile radius of the High School are cleared for passage. Sidewalks beyond that are not cleared.

Fire Hydrants/Catch Basins

During winter months, **fire hydrants** and **catch basins** must be kept free and clear of snow and ice. This insures the safety of your neighborhood in the event of an emergency and reduces the possibility of street flooding during heavy rains or snow melting periods.

Your assistance is important in making sure snow is cleared from hydrants and catch basins. Please shovel the hydrant and catch basin nearest you after each storm to insure your property’s protection.

Snow Removal for the Downtown Area

If snow becomes a hazard within the business areas, the DPW will implement its snow removal plan. The removal will begin after the storm and may require additional days to insure that all areas are safe for pedestrians. Removal will generally take place during business hours to minimize the financial impact on the Town budget.

Chapter VIII, Sub-section C By-Law

No person shall move snow or ice from private property onto the traveled portion of a public way or sidewalk so as to impede or obstruct the use of such public way or sidewalk or so as to create a hazard or unsafe condition on such a public way or sidewalk.

The Uxbridge Department of Public Works strives to provide the safest streets and roadways in the shortest period of time for the citizens. With your cooperation and commonsense, we will all benefit.

Important Telephone Numbers:	DPW - General Information: 508-278-8616	Police Dept: 508-278-7755
	Highway Garage: 508-278-8626	Fire Dept: 508-278-2787
	School Dept: 508-278-8648	Emergency: 911